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## FOURSCORE.

D. C. COLESWORTHY.

Friend of my youth! can it be so,  
That fourscore years have passed,  
Since life was in its golden glow,  
And morning's glory east  
No murky shade about our feet.  
As joyfully we flew  
O'er hill and dale, in cold and heat,  
Nor care nor sorrow knew?

Fourscore! Still onward with an eye  
Undimmed,—a soul alive  
To all that's fair beneath the sky,  
Determined still to strive  
In all grand work for God and man,  
Where'er thy lot is cast,  
And be more true and active than  
In youth and manhood passed.

*Boston, 1890.*

## PROGRESS OF ARBITRATION.

A treaty has been negotiated between several South American Powers, to establish an international law of procedure in civil cases. This treaty was signed at Montevideo January 11, 1889, and its text has now been published. The countries taking part in the conference for the discussion and settling of its terms were Paraguay, Uruguay, the Argentine Republic, Chili, Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. The great aim was to secure uniformity of law touching the innumerable and vexing cases of commercial litigation arising between citizens of different countries. While it has not been possible to secure this entirely, yet much has been gained by the final agreement in which the delegates from all the powers united. The contracting States bind themselves to recognize the legal processes of each other, and to recognize and enforce, each within its own limits, decisions made in the courts of any of the others affecting its own citizens. The establishment of boards of arbitration, in certain cases, is also provided for, and their decisions, when arrived at under conditions named, are to be held as binding by all the States. All this marks a great advance in the simplification of the business relations of the merchants of these various countries. It indicates, also, decided progress in the appreciation and adoption of civilized methods of settling international controversies on the part of governments which we have been too much accustomed to regard as barbarous.—*The Nation.*

## ENGLAND AND VENEZUELA.

On Feb. 20, 1887, Venezuela gave his passports to the British minister. The differences which led to this were (1) A question of boundary between Venezuela and Guiana. (2) The thirty per cent. extra duties levied on goods coming from the British West Indies. (3) Certain British "claims" which Venezuela failed to satisfy. Conrad F. Stollmeyer of Trinidad, W. I., went to the Venezuelan government and proposed, after consultation with the U. S. minister, reopening of negotiations between the two countries. The proposition was accepted and negotiations are reopened. That gentleman writes the above facts to Mr. A. H. Love of Philadelphia, President of the Universal Peace Union, by which Society he was encouraged to undertake this good mission of peace.

## THE MARITIME CONFERENCE.

The Maritime International Conference, in Washington, is a much greater event than the death of a King at one end of the Mediterranean, or the marriage of a Prince at the other. The gradual growth of the dominion of Law on the high seas shows the high water mark of modern civilization. Three centuries ago there was no such thing as Maritime International Law. Then no ship was safe, and at any moment might be arrested and rifled and scuttled by another and bigger ship. The Reformation which broke over Europe brought with it new ideas, new aspirations, new securities for freedom, new guarantees for law. The new spirit soon found its way into international action on the sea; and to-day a ship with half-a-million ounces of gold as a portion of its cargo, is as safe from pirates as property on land. And so civilization gradually narrows the boundary of barbarism, and as gradually widens the limits of human advancement.—*Continental Times.*

## HE STILL LINGERS.

General Gibbon, Commander of the Military Department of the Pacific, recommends, in his annual report, the immediate expenditure of \$20,000,000 in Pacific Coast defences. General Gibbon seems to be one of the old dispensation lingerers who think the nations will go right along slaughtering human beings and destroying the fruits of poor men's toil as heretofore. We submit for his consideration, and the consideration of the head of the department to which his report is addressed, the fact that English engineers have reported that Gibraltar, the strongest fortress in the world, is no longer impregnable—that it could not withstand the guns and steel-clads now afloat. Coast defences have ceased to be practicable. Who does not feel with each passing day that the probabilities of military and naval adjustments of international troubles are growing more and more remote? Anyway another general war can only be thought of as the breaking up of a long, dreary winter of barbarism, to be succeeded by an endless era of peace and good will.—*Universal Republic.*

Let the world have peace for five hundred years, the aristocracy of blood will have gone. The aristocracy of gold has come and gone, that of talent will also have come and gone, and the aristocracy of goodness, which is the democracy of man, the government of all, *for all, by all*, will be the power that is. Then, what may we not look for? Hitherto our hero has been of force, his symbol the sword or the sceptre of command. It will not always be so. We are now developing the hand, and shall one day the head, and then the heart.—*Theodore Parker.*

Credit is now given to the Czar for pacific intentions, because of a few words addressed by him to some of the chief officers of his army on a recent date. The occasion was the celebration of the fifth centenary of the introduction of artillery into the Russian army. The words expressed by Alexander III. on this occasion have already become historic. "*God grant that such an occasion as war may not happen in the near future, and may the Lord preserve us from such a grievous trial.*"